## **For Immediate Release**

April 4, 2003

<u>Contact</u>: John Sewell 601-359-2916

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove released the following statement today:

"By working together, we have had some great successes during this session in education and economic development. We have accomplished this work without raising taxes. A fiscally sound and responsible budget cannot be based on spending all of our savings.

"We reached an agreement in January, one passed by both the House and the Senate.

"The Senate changed their mind this past Saturday. The House now agrees with me that we don't need to spend our savings; that's not the way to craft a fiscally sound and responsible budget.

"We reached a compromise with the House, and once again the Senate is saying that it's their way or the highway.

"The Senate is putting politics before the people's business. It is imperative that the Senate work with the House and the governor's office to complete this business during this session.

"The elements of a reasonable compromise are currently on the table. These concepts have already been approved by both houses in House Bill 1036 as originally crafted.

"The Senate is putting our entire budget at risk. The House members and my office stand prepared to complete the work on a compromise."